



Public Affairs
Section

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US Assistance Moves into New Phase

Coordinating Minister for the People's Welfare Alwi Shihab and U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Lynn Pascoe traveled to the USS Abraham Lincoln today, February 3, to say farewell and thanks to the officers and sailors of the Lincoln for their invaluable support and assistance to the victims of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated Northern Sumatra.

Since the U.S. military began providing assistance, over 2,800 relief missions have been flown, over 2,200 medical patients treated, and 4,000 tons of supplies have been delivered. Now as the stage of emergency relief moves into the long-term effort to rebuild and reconstruct the damaged areas and the emergency lift capability is no longer needed, the Lincoln will be returning to the U.S. on February 4th

Minister Alwi Shihab expressed the appreciation of the Indonesian people for the humanitarian assistance extended by the U.S. during the first stage of relief efforts. He noted the GOI no longer requires the full complement of U.S. military forces that were initially deployed. He observed that Indonesians will remember with thanks and affection the many relief missions that were flown, the supplies that were delivered and the injured who were helped.

Working with local and international partners, the U.S. government through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will continue to respond rapidly to infrastructure, health and basic human needs in Aceh. To date, the U.S. Government has provided more than \$37.2 million to support emergency relief activities and the provision of food, shelter, water and relief supplies for the population affected in Indonesia.

[If the UN Representative has a sound bite, I will try to work it in and phone back to Jakarta.]

Ambassador Pascoe said that the United States has worked closely with the Government of Indonesia throughout this effort. He noted, "all along we have agreed with the Indonesians that we would stay as long as needed and not a moment longer. The time has come to move on to the next stage of rebuilding and reconstruction and to pass the torch on to other organizations, such as USAID, to take on this task. As we have done over the

past 6 weeks, we will continue to work in full partnership and friendship with the government and people of Indonesia.”

“Most importantly, the U.S. is with Indonesia for the long-haul and for the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases, through both our official USAID assistance program, as well as through the very substantial resources that are being provided by U.S. NGOs and the private sector,” said William M. Frej, USAID Mission Director.

For more information on USAID activities, please contact Betina Moreira at 3435-9424 or bmoreira@usaid.gov

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